



Noadswood

Fit for learning, fit for life



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Update for Parents/Carers Monday April 20th 2020

Staying closely in touch while we're still apart:

A warm welcome to the very unusual Summer Term 2020 - one where our plan is to stick together, to communicate with each other as openly and consistently as we were doing before the Easter holidays and where our pledge is that we will be here for your every single query and concern, even though for now we still cannot be together.

So keep passing on to someone any and everything that is on your child's or your minds - don't sit on any worries or questions.

You will be aware that there has been an extension to the country's lockdown for the next three weeks, pending further review at that point which will be 8th May, and therefore the school site remains closed except for the children of key frontline workers and other specific families - if you need to get in touch with us about any aspect of this provision please use:

keyworker@noadswood.hants.sch.uk which we monitor all the time.

How else to keep in touch?

You can reach me at any time by ePraise and at headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk

You can get a message to a particular teacher, House Leader or member of the Leadership Team on ePraise or by emailing info@noadswood.hants.sch.uk if you don't already have their email address.

You can do the same for our business or premises support staff teams, or our ELSAs and LSAs - everyone is reachable via their ePraise or forwarded on from info@noadswood.hants.sch.uk

If you cannot get access to ePraise or your emails, you can ring the school and leave a voicemail and a member of the business support team will forward it on to the right people.

Educational and Wellbeing Provision are well and truly Open!

Though the site is closed other than for the students highlighted above, education and looking after your children's wellbeing are definitely open for business, as before the holidays. Tutors and teachers, House Leaders, ELSAs, LSAs, and our SENDCO, will continue to check in regularly with your children and to support you as you need it. Loveday's Lifeline continues to be open for any wellbeing worries or questions you may have between 10 and 12 every school day on 07946 884 122.

Work will continue to be provided via our Frog portal and some important messages remain key as we go into the new term:

Your child is following a curriculum that has been carefully considered by their teachers and team leaders, and we will continue work, this week, to ensure the best, easiest to use resources are available to your children and that we're considering closely what's most important and most enjoyable for them to be doing at this point in their learning. But this cannot be the same as school, and nor should it be.

We all want you to continue to take the approach that we have taken since the start of this, which is to encourage your child to plan a structure or a shape for their day that includes some school work, and has a sequence to it that feels good for them. If it can include some exercise, some r and r time, and some time spent connecting with someone else or doing something for someone else, then that's really great too.

That might be reaching out to connect with someone they know or joining in with one one of the competitions/ideas laid on by us or another organisation you hear about during lockdown, or it might be doing something in the garden or the kitchen, or helping a sibling out with their activities – all that is as important as the school work, so we're not aiming at following a school timetable like we do when we're on site together. We're looking at weaving a decent amount of school work into a day that has a good shape to it, that looks after everyone's wellbeing and ability to juggle all the demands in our homes right now.

Teachers want to hear from your children via ePraise – when they're stuck with their work, wondering if they're doing enough or if they're prioritising in the best way, they can get in touch, directly, with their teachers. That's not a nuisance or awkward in any way; that's what they'd do if we were on site together, so they're just doing it electronically right now.

Should you have questions or worries about any of the above, you can ePraise message their tutor or House Leader (Learning) who will definitely be keen to help, too. Lots of you did this which was really great, and never feel you can't, shouldn't or you're making any kind of fuss. We want to be here for you with the questions as they arise.

Equally, if your child really is doing nothing at all, slowly (remember, lots of us are parents, too, so we can imagine it!) then let someone know by an ePraise message or email – it isn't your job to battle this one out alone, but nor is it something that should be left, because it won't be doing their wellbeing and sense of purpose about life any good at all if that's the case.

Educational and mental health writer and speaker, Mike Armiger, circulated this message via Twitter this morning:

Dear parents,

We know things are difficult right now. Please remember there are all sorts of lessons you can teach. Whatever learning you're making happen at home, we thank you. We will use all our skills & expertise to support your children when they come back.

What we need right now is for them to be in the best place for learning, when they arrive back at school. Please share your calm, your love, your connection, your humour & your care. Those are the greatest gifts you could give to your children right now.

All our love,

Teachers

There have been various versions of this message over social media of late, but this is the one I liked the best, because it captures what we have seen so many of you doing as you've grappled with getting through each 'school day' with your children, with immense calm, love, connection, humour and care. We need to reassure you that we do, indeed, thank you for the learning you're making happen at home, and we're here to support you with it.

We also want to provide reassurance that no one is getting ahead, no one is falling behind, and no one will be left behind depending on this work now, because, as Mike puts it, 'we will use all our skills and expertise to support your children', all of them, when we come back.

Updates for Year 11s:

Please note the ePraise message that Mr Hewitt sent to Year 11 students last week – it draws their attention to two new sources of information in the Frog School Continuity Portal:

- Link to pre-reading for those students planning to move to Brock College, but will in fact be of use to all of them moving to any college next academic year. We will have more resources and ideas for pre-KS5 work over the next few weeks.
- Link to a video published by Ofqual that explains how GCSE grades will be awarded and the info we are preparing to pass on to the awarding bodies, further to the links to written documents about this from the DfE and Ofqual we provided you with before the break.

Do draw your sons' and daughters' attention to these links and take a look yourselves.

Updates regarding Year 6-7 transition:

If you are the parents/carers of Y6 children, or you have friends and family members who are, please be aware that we are about to launch our online information gathering process, as well as reach out to anyone for whom this will be difficult in any way.

In addition, Mrs Loveday, Assistant Head, and Mrs Rollett, Research and Pedagogy Lead, are leading our transition work and our partnerships with our primary school friends to ensure that a wealth of information about children's learning, wellbeing and all aspects of their progress, strengths and areas we need to support will be gathered in a timely fashion.

We know it is a worrying time for children and parents in year groups who are moving up to the next phase in their education, so we want to reassure you that all of this is happening in 'virtual school' world just the same as if we could be together in person.

I will continue to write to you regularly with updates, and please don't hesitate to get in touch in between times with your questions, ideas or comments – you may well stimulate something that many people want to know about, and no question or worry is too small at this or any other time.

With all best wishes,

Kathryn Marshall and the Noadswood Leadership Team